

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Under high out of balance loads the ligaments 42 deflect, the clearance 48 closes and the flange 46 forms part of the secondary load path. The flange 46 acts as a load magnification member, and hence a consequence of the out of balance nature of the loading is that the ligament 42 in contact with the flange 46 will carry significantly more load than the other ligaments. This results in the rapid failure of the ligament 42 in contact with the flange 46. Since the applied load is rotating the adjacent ligament 42 quickly becomes loaded in a similar way and also fails. This process is repeated until all of the ligaments 42 have failed. With the ligaments 42 severed, the first ring 40 is free to move independently of the second ring 44, allowing the out of balance shaft 28 to oscillate about a new axis, which will result in less damage to the engine support casing than if the out of balance force was transmitted through to the inner wall 24.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 5 presents an alternative embodiment of the frangible coupling 12. The coupling 12 comprises a first ring 50 axially joined via a row of fuse ligaments 52 to a second ring 54. The second ring 54 is formed with a third static member (not shown) that is fixedly joined with a non rotatable section of the inner wall 24 (not shown in this figure). The first ring 50 is fitted with a bearing 58 that rotatably supports the first ring 50 on a shaft 60. The shaft 60 supports the fan blades 26 (not shown in this figure). The shaft 60 is provided with a disc 62 positioned at about one half of the way between the first ring 50 and the second ring 54. Extending radially outward from the circumference of the disc 62 is a snub 64 which, in use, acts as a load magnification member.

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A frangible coupling for the purpose of supporting a rotatable load having a first ring, a second ring, a plurality of ligaments and a load magnification member, said first ring and second ring interconnected by said plurality of ligaments with the load magnification member provided on the first ring or rotatable load, there being a small clearance maintained between said ~~members~~member and ligaments adjacent thereto, configured such that, in use, when a load of a predetermined value causes the first and second ring to move relative to one another by a predetermined amount, thereby bringing at least one ligament into contact with said load magnification member, at least one ligament is caused to fail.
2. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said ligaments are substantially axially aligned.
3. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed claim 1 wherein the first and second rings are cylindrical.
4. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ligaments are equidistantly spaced apart.
5. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first ring and the second ring are coaxial.
6. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first ring and the second ring are concentric.
7. (Previously Presented) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein the load magnification member on the first ring is formed as a flange that is provided with a plurality of semi-circular cross-section cut out portions each of which corresponds closely to

at least part of the outside diameter of a ligament part way along the ligaments, there being a small clearance maintained between the ligaments and their corresponding cut out portions in the flange.

8. (Previously Presented) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 7 wherein at least one ligament is formed with a stress raising feature in the region where, when a load of a predetermined value causes the first and second ring to move relative to one another by a predetermined amount, the at least one ligament is designed to contact the flange thereby increasing the stress concentration in the at least one ligament to a level where the at least one ligament fails.

9. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 7 wherein each of the ligaments have at least one waisted section.

10. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 7 wherein the first ring is in communication with a means for supporting a rotatable load.

11. (Original) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 10 wherein the second ring is fixedly joined to a fan support structure.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 1 wherein a rotatable shaft is in communication with said first ring via a bearing support means, the load magnification member is a rotatable member on the rotatable shaft positioned between and coaxially with the first and second ring, thereby defining a small clearance between the said member and the ligaments adjacent thereto, such that when a load of predetermined value causes the first and second ring to move relative to one another by a predetermined amount, the at least one ligament is designed to contact the member thereby increasing the stress concentration in the at least one ligament to a level where the at least one ligament fails.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A frangible coupling as claimed in claim 13 wherein the rotatable member is a disc formed with at least one snub which extends substantially radially outward from the rotatable member, there being a small clearance maintained between the said snub and the ligaments adjacent thereto.